



A Ten-Year Report: Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Demographics

This report is assembled from public files in the office of Marin County Coroner Ken Holmes. It covers the period July 1, 1997 through June 30, 2007. The Marin Coroner's office investigated 206 deaths from the Bbridge during that period.

While this data represent the vast majority of bridge suicides during the study period, they are by no means complete. Data from other coroners and medical examiners who occasionally find the remains of people who jump from the bridge in their jurisdiction should be added. We know bodies have washed ashore in San Francisco and Contra Costa; however a complete study would require review of the records from all counties along the bay shore and on the coast from Mendocino to Santa Barbara. Further, a methodology to include those suicides where a bridge jump is confirmed, yet no body is recovered, must be developed to complete the picture.

Residency

Well over 90% of people who jump from the Golden Gate Bridge are from Northern California. In fact, over 50% of them are from counties within the jurisdiction of the Golden Gate Bridge District.

County of Residence		
Bay Area	173	85.22%
Alameda	14	6.90%
Contra Costa	16	7.88%
Marin	28	13.79%
Napa	3	1.48%
San Francisco	59	29.06%
San Mateo	13	6.40%
Santa Clara	20	9.85%
Solano	6	2.96%
Sonoma	14	6.90%
Other No. California	14	6.90%
So. California	3	1.48%
Out of State	13	6.40%
Golden Gate Bridge District Counties (Marin, Napa, SF, Sonoma)	104	51.23%
		N=203

Note: The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District also includes Del Norte and Mendocino counties. No bridge suicides were identified from among the residents of those counties during the study period.

Witnessed Jumps

Witnesses have contacted authorities following over 75% of all bridge suicides. Data on how many witnesses there are and witnessed but unreported jumps is not available.

Witnessed	
Unwitnessed	23.90%
Witnessed	76.10%
N=205	

Age

The median age of individuals who jump from the Golden Gate Bridge is 40.5.

Age		Age	
Mean	41.7		
Median	40.5	14–24	23 11.33%
Mode	49	25–44	92 45.32%
		45–64	79 38.92%
		65+	9 4.43%
		N=203	

Race, Sex and Marital Status

All races are represented among Golden Gate Bridge suicides. However, whites make up over 83% of all people who jump. Men outnumber women almost 3 to 1 among bridge suicides and most have never married.

Race	
African American	2.93%
Asian	9.76%
Hispanic	1.95%
White	83.41%
Other	1.46%
Unknown	0.49%
N=205	

Sex			
Female	53	25.73%	
Male	153	74.27%	
N=206			

Marital Status		
Married	39	19.02%
Divorced	43	20.98%
Unknown	5	2.44%
Widowed	3	1.46%
Never	115	56.10%
N=205		

Last known occupation

*Listed below is the last known occupation of bridge jumpers during the study period.
We have not attempted to aggregate or classify this data and present the information
below in alphabetical order.*

Accountant • Accountant • Accountant • Administrative Assistant • Advertising
Art Director • Architect • Art Dealer • Artist • Artist • Artist • Artist • Attorney •
Attorney • Bank Teller • Bartender • Bell Man • Billiard Player • Book Sales Person
• Bus Driver • Business Manager • Business Owner • Business Owner • Caregiver •
Carpenter • Cashier Gas Station • Chef • Chef • Child Psychologist • Cleaning • Clerk
• Computer Game Designer • Computer Programmer • Computer Programmer •
Computer Technician • Computer Technician • Construction • Construction
Laborer • Consultant Psychologist • Cook • Counselor • Counselor • Custodian •
Disabled • Driver • Educator • Electrical Engineer • Electrical Engineer • Electrical
Engineer • Electrical Engineer • Electrician • Engineer • Environmental Specialist
• Fashion Designer • Film Animator • Financial • Financial • Firefighter • Florist •
Food Business Partner • Food Delivery • Forklift Operator • Foster Care Recruiter
• Gardner • General Contractor • Grant Administrator • Grocery Bagger • Handyman •
High School Student • Homemaker • Homemaker • Homemaker • Homemaker
• Homemaker • Homemaker • Homemaker • Homemaker • Hotel Valet • Internet Designer •
Investment Owner • Investor • Laborer • Laborer • Laborer • Landscaper
• Landscaper • Lawyer • Loan Officer • Machinist • Mail Worker • Mechanic •
Mechanic • Mechanic • Metal Recycler • Military • Military • Molecular Biologist
• Music Production • Musician • Never Worked • Never Worked • Never
Worked • Never Worked • None • None • Nurse Caregiver • Nursing Assistant •
Office Clerk • Optometrist • Painting Contractor • Paralegal • Park Supervisor
• Personal Services • Physician • Poet • Police Clerk • Political Consultant •
Printer • Printer • Programmer • Proofreader • Proprietor • Psychologist • Public
Relations • Real Estate Agent • Realtor • Receptionist • Retail Clerk • Retail Manager •
Sales • Sales • Sales - Dry Cleaner • Sales & Marketing • Sales Clerk • Sales Person
• Sales Rep • Sales Rep • Salesman • Salesman • Salesman • Salesman • Secretary •
Secretary • Security Guard • Security Guard • Security Guard • Security Officer
• Security Guard • Senior Editor • Singer • Social Worker • Social Worker •
Software Consultant • Software Engineer • Software Engineer • Software
Engineer • Software Engineer • Student • Student • Student • Student • Student •
Student • Student • Student • Student • Student • Student • Student • Student
• Student • Student • Student • Student • Student • Student • Student • Student
• Student • Student • Student • Taxi Driver • Teacher • Teacher • Teacher •
Teacher • Teacher • Teacher • Teacher • Teacher • Technician • Teller • Translator
• Tutor • Various • Venture Capitol Investor • Vocational Ed Specialist • Waiter •
Waiter • Web Designer • Welder • Welder • Writer •
